



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G06F 17/30	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/21177
		(43) International Publication Date: 12 June 1997 (12.06.97)
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/02977</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 2 December 1996 (02.12.96)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 95308682.4 1 December 1995 (01.12.95) EP</p> <p>(34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: GB et al.</p> <p>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).</p> <p>(72) Inventor; and</p> <p>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): JAMES, Derek, Robert [GB/GB]; 1 Roundwood Gardens, Harpenden AL5 3AJ (GB).</p> <p>(74) Agent: DUTTON, Erica, Lindley, Graham; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, JP, KR, MX, NO, NZ, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>

(54) Title: **DATABASE ACCESS**

(57) Abstract

In a client/server computer environment having a fileserver (100) running a master database (126) and clients (130) supporting cache databases (136), inconsistent data write accesses are prevented by using a data locking technique, which locks data during the course of an up-date transaction requested by one client (130). This prevents access to the same data by another client. Data consistency is checked, prior to the write access, by comparing a time stamp associated with a respective cache database entry and a time stamp associated with the index to the corresponding data entry in the master database. Time stamp equivalence obviates the need to access the master database (126) or to transfer data across the client/server communications network (140).

